

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6528

---

---

As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Government Operations & Elections, January 28, 2010

**Title:** An act relating to the Washington soldiers' home.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the Washington soldiers' home.

**Sponsors:** Senator Roach.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Government Operations & Elections: 1/26/10, 1/28/10 [DP].

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; McDermott, Pridemore and Swecker.

**Staff:** Edward Redmond (786-7471)

**Background:** The Washington Soldier's Home (WSH), located in the city of Orting, was dedicated by the Legislature in May 1891 to provide eligible military veterans necessary personal and nursing care, shelter, and related services. Since its inception, WSH has been funded primarily through public and private donations. Such donations include professional services, labor, and financial assistance. The donations have been used to acquire property, supply medical equipment, and to renovate and maintain physical facilities. The Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs (WSDVA) has administrative authority over WSH.

**Summary of Bill:** WSDVA may receive donations, including gifts, grants, and endowments from public or private sources for the use and benefit of WSH. The Washington Soldiers' Home Account (Account) is established under the custody of the State Treasurer. All monies received on behalf of the WSH must be deposited in the Account. The WSDVA director or director's designee must disburse donated funds to WSH for the following purposes: renovation and maintenance of its physical facilities.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

---

*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: The surroundings and living area of WSH is quite old and concerning; the decorations and furnishing look like they are from the 1950s. With a little community effort, it would be relatively easy to fix up and redecorate WSH. This bill provides a way to accomplish such improvements without impacting any state funds.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Roach, prime sponsor.